Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

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INL Sustainability – How Are We Doing?

ast month we talked about transportation and how INL commutes to work. This month we want let you know how we are doing as a laboratory to be more sustainable.

Green House Gases:

Whether or not you agree that CO2 and other greenhouse gases (GHG) are causing damage to our planet, we all understand that DOE has committed INL to help reduce the amount of GHGs that we emit into the atmosphere. INL has completed its GHG baseline or "Carbon Footprint" for FY-08 and has determined that we are responsible for 114,256 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions, the majority being from electrical consumption. INL is making progress to determine the best and most cost effective methods to reduce our GHG emissions by reducing our energy consumption.

Energy Use Reduction:

INL is contractually obligated to reduce energy use by 30% before the end of FY-15 as compared to an established FY-03 baseline. At the end of FY-10, INL was at a 9.4% reduction. There are several projects in process to help further reduce our energy use.

Water Reductions:

Our water reduction goal is 16% by FY-15 as compared to an FY-07 baseline. INL pumped almost 1.1 billion gallons of water in FY-07 as compared to "only" 871 million gallons in FY-10. That is an 18% reduction, However, we measure water usage as intensity, which is gallons used per square foot. Due to on-going D&D work and other factors, we actually increased our water usage intensity from 71.8 M gal/ft² to 88.5 M gal/ft², which is a 23% increase. We still have a long way to go to achieve our water reduction goals.

Transportation Fuel Use:

Right now, INL is shining with our success at transportation fuel use. We are to reduce our petroleum fuel use by 20% and increase alternative fuel usage by 100%, both compared to an FY-05 baseline. In FY-10, our petroleum use was down 27% and our alternative fuel use was up 56%, both exceeding where we should be in FY-10. This is largely due to efforts to make alternative fuel more available and convenient, and to your efforts to use alternative fuel in our flexfuel vehicles and ride the shuttles rather than taking a government vehicle to or from the site.

Other Activities:

Successes in FY-10 included planning for and installing Cool Roofs on five buildings, purchasing 16,393 MWh of renewable energy, and installing two more

solar walls on facilities at MFC.

Thank you for helping INL to be a more sustainable laboratory and a place where we are proud to work.

Sustainable INL Program

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